

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 ISO-00 IGA-01 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-04

AGR-05 SWF-01 FDRE-00 EB-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 FEAE-00

INT-05 PC-01 OES-02 HEW-02 /088 W

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R 311325Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9187

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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PARIS FOR HELMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID NG

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATOR PARKER VISIT TO NIGER

A. PARKER PARTY SPENT ACTIVE TWO DAYS IN NIGER, VISITING
R&R PROJECTS IN BAGYERA AND TCHINTABARADEN, SEEING LAZARET II
REFUGEE CAMP AND MEETING WITH OTHER DONOR REPRESENTATIVES, ACTING
FOREIGN MINISTER AND WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE.

B. MAIN IMPRESSION FROM THIS BRIEF VISIT IS THAT MAJOR
IMPACT OF DROUGHT HAS BEEN EASED AND THAT POPULACE IS IN
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FAR BETTER CONDITION THAN A YEAR AGO, ALTHOUGH A BROAD

RANGE OF EMERGENCY FOOD, HEALTH AND SIMILAR PROGRAMS REMAIN NECESSARY. WHILE VISITING AREAS WHERE REFUGEE CAMPS HAD EXISTED IN TCHINTABARADEN AND LAZARET, IT APPEARS MAJORITY OF NOMADS HAVE DEPARTED IN HOPES RECOVERING THEIR FORMER WAY OF EXISTENCE. HEALTH AND NUTRITIONAL PROBLEMS OF INDIVIDUALS FROM THESE CAMPS, WHILE STILL DIFFICULT, APPEAR BETTER THAN EARLIER.

C. IN DISCUSSION WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS AND OTHER DONORS, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT GON IS THINKING ABOUT ITS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ALMOST ENTIRELY IN NATIONAL TERMS AND HAS THOUGHT LITTLE ABOUT THE NEED TO DEAL WITH SAHELIAN TRANSFORMATION PROBLEMS IN TERMS WHICH GO BEYOND NATIONAL BOUNDARIES OR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL DONORS. PARKER PARTY SOUGHT THROUGHOUT ITS VISIT OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE CLEAR OUR VIEW THAT REAL IMPROVEMENTS IN WELFARE OF SAHELIAN PEOPLE DESIRED BY NIGERIEN OFFICIAL REQUIRES RESOURCES WHICH GO BEYOND NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND BILATERAL APPROACHES AND THAT SOME BROADER APPROACH TO SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS THUS IS NEEDED.

D. HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT WAS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE AFTERNOON OCTOBER 29. DETAILS ON THIS DISCUSSION FOLLOW:

1. PRESIDENT OPENED DISCUSSION BY INDICATING FULL APPRECIATION FOR HELP RECEIVED FROM AMERICAN PEOPLE, BOTH THROUGH PUBLIC PROGRAMS AS WELL AS WORK OF VOLAGS.
2. PRESIDENT SAID PRESENT SITUATION IN NIGER RELATIVELY GOOD. RAINFALL GOOD, HARVESTS REASONABLY GOOD ALTHOUGH AFFECTED BY INSECT ATTACKS AND LAST MINUTE RAIN TRAILING OFF. IN GENERAL, SITUATION FOR HUMANS REASONABLY GOOD AND EXCELLENT FOR LIVESTOCK.
3. GON IS SEEKING DETERMINE LESSONS TO BE DRAWN FROM THE DROUGHT. FIRST CONCERN THEY FEEL IS NEED DEVELOP MEANS CONSERVE WATER. THIS INVOLVES SURFACT WATER CONERVATION SCHEMES, DEVELOPMENT SHALLOW WELL IRRIGATION IN DALLOL REGIONS, AND USE OF BOREWELLS FOR IRRIGATION IN OTHER AREAS.

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4. GON REALIZES THERE IS MUCH THAT NEED BE DONE. IT CAN HAPPEN ONLY IF THERE IS TRUE WILL ON PART NIGERIEN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT. THERE IS ALSO A ROLE FOREIGN AID CAN PLAY. THERE IS NEED FOR BRAINS AND FINANCE WHICH ONLY DONORS CAN PROVIDE. GON WISHES USE THESE FOREIGN RESOURCES TO SUPPORT ITS EFFORTS IN MEETING FIRST PRIORITY CONCERNS OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT.

5. WHILE FOOD AREA (AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK) REMAINS FIRST PRIORITY AND ONE IN WHICH FOREIGN AID HAS IMPORTANT ROLE, GON ALSO CONSIDERS MINERALS' DEVELOPMENT AS SECOND PRIORITY AND THIS IS AREA WHERE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SHOULD PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE AND US PRIVATE INVESTMENT IS PARTICULARLY WELCOME. PRESIDENT POINTED TO HOPES THAT TEXACO EFFORTS WOULD SOON PAY OFF.

6. THE PRESIDENT INDICATED GON'S NEEDS WERE CONSTRAINED BY THREE PROBLEMS: LACK OF ACCESS TO SEA; CONTINUING EFFECTS OF DROUGHT, AND ENERGY CRISIS. WITH RAINS, PERHAPS PROBLEMS OF DROUGHT ARE COMING TO END. MINERALS EXPLORATION UNDERWAY MAY RESOLVE ENERGY PROBLEMS. ACCESS TO SEA REMAINS AS MAJOR PROBLEM. THIS INVOLVES INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TRANSPORT FROM FOREIGN PORTS TO NIGER AS WELL AS INTERNAL TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS. PRESIDENT WAS PARTICULARLY DESIROUS SEEING GAYA BRIDGE PROJECT GO FORWARD AS ELEMENT OF COMPLEX FOR DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE RIVER ROUTE ACCESS TO SEA. HE REALIZED THERE WERE SOME PROBLEMS STILL FACING THIS PROJECT. HE CONSIDERED THOSE WITH DAHOMEY READILY RESOLVABLE. THERE REMAINS SOME ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF PROJECT MUST BE LOOKED AT IN RELATIONSHIP TO ENERGY CRISES.

7. ALL OF THESE REFLECTIONS MEAN NIGER MUST LOOK AGAIN AT ITS RELATIONS WITH DONOR WORLD. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CHANGES IN THE WORLD BETWEEN TIME COLUMBUS DISCOVERED AMERICAN AND TIME OF PRESIDENT FORD. WHATEVER THESE CHANGES MAY IMPLY, HOWEVER, THERE HAS REMAINED ALWAYS IN THE WORLD A SENSE OF HUMAN SOLIDARITY. HE LOOKED TO THIS HUMAN SOLIDARITY AS MEANS SUPPORT FOR WHAT NIGER MUST DO. HE RECOGNIZED THAT ACHIEVING NIGER'S OBJECTIVES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS NOT EASY, BUT HE HOPED THAT THIS HUMAN SOLIDARITY, COMBINED WITH WILL OF NIGERIESE PEOPLE, WOULD PERMIT SUCCESS.

8. IN RESPONSE, PARKER STATED HIS PLEASURE AT BEING IN NIGER AND HONOR OF MEETING PRESIDENT. HE SAID HE WOULD BE PLEASED TRANSMIT PRESIDENT'S SENTIMENTS ON GOOD NIGER-AMERICAN RELATIONS TO PRESIDENT FORD. HE EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION FOR SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY NIGERIESE GOVERNMENT TO MEET NEEDS ITS PEOPLE IN THIS PERIOD OF DISTRESS. RECOGNIZING THAT RAINS HAD COME AND EASED SITUATION, HE ALSO REALIZED MANY DROUGHT-INDUCED PROBLEMS REMAINED AND MUST BE DEALT WITH.

9. PARKER WENT ON TO SAY HE SHARED PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE'S

BASIC OBJECTIVES. HE REALIZED THAT TRANSITION TO SELF-SUBSISTENCE WOULD BE LONG AND DIFFICULT PROCESS BUT UNITED STATES STANDS READY TO HELP THROUGHOUT PROCESS. HE FULLY AGREED THAT THIS WAS APPROPRIATE TIME TO LOOK BEYOND SHORT TERM EMERGENCY PROGRAMS TO LONGER TERM DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.

10. PARKER INDICATED THAT THERE WERE TWO WORDS WHICH COULD CATEGORIZE AMERICAN VIEWS OF SAHEL. ALREADY THERE IS SYMPATHY, EXPRESSED IN BASIC HUMANITARIAN REACTION TO DISTRESS SITUATION. THERE NOW NEED TO BUILD SENSE OF EMPATHY BETWEEN TWO PEOPLES, WHERE BOTH FEEL THEY SHARING IN MUTUAL EFFORT FOR HUMAN BETTERMENT. THIS MUST TAKE FORM OF RELATIONSHIPS WHEREBY AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN FEEL THAT WHAT THEY DOING IN NIGER REALLY HAVING IMPACT ON BETTERMENT OF LIFE OF NIGERIEN PEOPLE.

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R 311325Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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11. PARKER WENT ON TO SAY THAT MANY IMPORTANT PROJECTS ARE OF SCOPE WHICH GO BEYOND CAPACITY OF ANY INDIVIDUAL DONOR. IT THEREFORE ALSO IMPORTANT FIND MEANS ASSURE MULTI-DONOR OPERATIONS IN WAYS WHICH RESPOND BOTH TO AFRICAN AND TO DONOR REQUIREMENTS.

12. HE ALSO AGREED WITH PRESIDENT THAT WORLD CIRCUMSTANCES HAD CHANGED AND THAT AID REQUIREMENTS NEEDED ADJUSTMENT. HE SAID AID WAS IN PROCESS REVIEWING PROBLEMS CAUSED FROM WORLD INFLATION, ENERGY CRISIS AND DROUGHT SITUATIONS TO DETERMINE WHAT THIS MEANT WITH RESPECT TRADITIONAL AID RECIPIENTS. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT, THESE TRADITIONAL RELATIONSHIPS EXISTED AND CHANGING FROM THEM, IN RESPONSE TO CHANGING NEEDS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD SOMETIMES BE DIFFICULT AND REQUIRE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF NEW AND EMERGING NEEDS.

13. PARKER SAID THAT ONE OF REASONS HE VISITING SAHEL WAS BECAUSE HE WAS GOING ON FROM THERE TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WHERE SAHEL TYPE PROBLEMS WOULD BE IMPORTANT ELEMENT. BUT ALSO, AFTER WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE HE NEEDED RETURN TO WASHINGTON TO DEAL FURTHER WITH CONGRESS AND HE WOULD THERE BE FACED BY LARGE CHALLENGE SINCE HE ASKING FOR ONE-THIRD INCREASE IN SUPPORT TO MSAS.

14. WITH RESPECT TO CONGRESS, PARKER RECALLED THAT PRESIDENT HAD MENTIONED GAYA BRIDGE. PARKER STATED HE NOT CLOSELY FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS, BUT HAD REQUESTED INTENSIVE REVIEW OF STATUS THIS PROJECT. HE HOPED THAT FOLLOWING REVIEW, US WOULD BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO KINDS OF CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT, BUT THAT THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF KINDS OF CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY CONGRESS TO OBVIATE DORMANT APPROPRIATIONS.

15. PARKER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD PROBLEMS POSED TO GON BY NUMBER OF TECHNICAL VISITS. DESPITE THIS, HE HOPED GON WOULD BE ABLE WORK CLOSELY WITH FORTHCOMING DAP VISIT, SINCE HE FELT THIS COULD ALSO BE VERY HELPFUL TO NIGER IN THINKING OUT ITS OWN DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS. SIMILARLY, HE MOST APPRECIATIVE NIGER'S AGREEMENT TO HOLDING OF CWR WORKSHOP IN NIAMEY IN DECEMBER.

16. IN RESPONSE, PRESIDENT INDICATED AGAIN APPRECIATION FOR HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS WHICH HAVE GENERATED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO LOOKS WITH

ENTHUSIASM TO ROLE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE CAN PLAY IN FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. BUT THERE IS PARADOX IN FACT THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ALREADY HAVE IN HAND THE RESOURCES TO PERMIT THEIR OWN CONTINUED GROWTH WHILE LDCS HAVE THIS ONLY IN A POTENTIAL SENSE. THERE IS NEED TO FIND ADDITIONAL MECHANISMS TO TRANSFER RESOURCES FROM DCS TO LDCS TO PERMIT LATTER FIND THEIR OWN POTENTIAL.

17. AS TO NIGER, THERE NO NEED AT THIS TIME FOR FULL BLOWN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEVELOPMENT PLAN. RATHER, THERE NEED FOR SHORT TERM PLANS AIMED AT BRINGING NIGER UP FROM DROUGHT REPERCUSSIONS. NIGER LOOKED TO DAP TEAM TO HELP IN THIS PROCESS AND PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD DO ALL POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE TEAM'S EFFORTS.

18. AMBASSADOR HECK INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO DAP TEAM IF GON COULD FORMULATE CLEARER VIEW BEFORE TEAM ARRIVES ON HOW THEY WISH PROCEED WITH RESPECT NATIONAL CEREALS PROGRAM.

19. PRESIDENT STATED THAT PROBLEMS RELATED TO CEREALS PRODUCTION CERTAINLY IMPORTANT. NIGER FACED NOW WITH RANGE OF PROBLEMS RELATED TO INSECT ATTACKS. STORAGE PROBLEMS ARE IMPORTNAT AND NIGER MUST FIND MEANS PUT ITSELF IN POSITION DEAL WITH TWO-THREE YEAR TIME FRAME STORAGE NEEDS. BUT HE ALSO CONSIDERED RESTRUCTURING OF LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY TO BE IMPORTANT, AND GON WOULD ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING LIVESTOCK PROBLEMS WITH DAP TEAM. PARKER NOTED THAT FROM WHAT HE UNDERSTOOD, PROPOSALS FOR NATIONAL CEREALS PROJECT WERE VERY PROMISING, AND THIS WAS PARTICULARLY CASE BECAUSE OF AID'S DEEP INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH NETWORK AND ROLE THIS NETWORK COULD PLAY IN ASSISTING NIGERIEN NATIONAL EFFORTS.

20. MEETING ENDED WITH RENEWED ASSURANCES OF APPRECIATION FOR PAST EFFORTS AND HOPES FOR FUTURE COOPERATION WHICH CAN HELP RESOLVE SOME OF NIGER'S CRITICAL PROBLEMS.HECK

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